(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) what steps are proposed by Government to improve the functioning of Indian Airlines; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) The Government has asked the two airlines to explore possibilities of integrated functioning in some sectors. Appointment of a Common Board of Directors is a step in this direction.

(e) and (f) To improved its functioning, Indian Airlines is taking steps to intensify marketing efforts and to improve its product, image and on time performance.

Joint/strategic plan by IA and AI

1645. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines and Air India are working out joint strategic plans;

(b) if so, the details of such strategic collaboration;

(c) whether any facilities could be mutually utilised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The Government has asked the two airlines to explore possibilities of integrated functioning in some sectors.

(c) and (d) Both airlines are utilising the aircraft maintenance facilities of each other. They are also collaborating in certain areas of commercial activities.

Expansion of the runway of Ahmedabad Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel Airport

1646. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expansion work of the runway of Ahmedabad Sardar Vallabhabhai patel Airport has since been completed;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the expansion of the runway of the said airport is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) The Project involves expension of runway from 9000 ft. to 11,500 ft. link taxiway, expansion of apron and associated pavements at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport. Airports Authority of India has acquired 61 acres of land from the State Government in August. 1996. The work can commence only after the State Government diverts the water pipeline running through the acquired land and it is estimated that it will take 2 years for completing the work.

Constitution of Advisory Council

1647. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will appoint an advisory council to guide and interact with aviation industry;

(b) whether it is a fact that the private aviation sector has no organised forum or recognised forum to interact with Government; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to constitute such an advisory body for aviation.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) The private aviation sector is free to interact with the government either individually or collectively.

Requests for increasing the Indian Airlines flights

1648. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some requests have been received in 1996 to increase the number of Indian Airlines flights in different sectors of country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken on such requests?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines have received a large number of requests from different parts of the country to increase/introduce services during 1996. Within the resources available, Indian Airlines and Alliance Air together have been able to increase services on some routes while on some other routes it has not become possible due to crew/aircraft/airport/commercial constraints. A statement indicating the new services introduced/increased in 1996 is annexed.

Statement

List of new services introduced/increased in 1996

Requests received during 1996 for increase in air services	Source	Action Taken by Indian Airlines/ Alliance Air
1	2	3
Delhi-Vadodara	Federation of Gujarat Industries	Services increased from 4 B737 weekly to daily
Delhi-Nagpur-Raipur	M/s. Butibori Mfg. Association	Services increased from 6 B737 weekly to daily.
Delhi-Chandigarh	Shri C. Mishra	Services introduced on Delhi/Chandigarh/ Amritsar/Mumbai on 3 weekly basis by B737
Madras-Tirupati-Hyderabad Hyderabad-Vizag Hyderabad-Vijayawada	H'ble M.P./Ministry of Commerce	Services introduced Madras-Tirupati-Hyderabad 2 wkly Hyderabad Vizag 2 wkly